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Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 132: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Safety and security (A/64/6 (Sect. 34)/Add.1, A/64/7/Add.15 and Corr.1, A/64/7/Add.16 and A/64/532; A/C.5/64/10)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing an addendum to section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 34)/Add.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget and the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda related to a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/64/532), recalled that the Secretary-General had appointed an independent panel to establish the facts concerning the attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers on 11 December 2007 and to address strategic issues vital to the delivery and enhancement of staff security for United Nations operations around the world.

2. The panel had recommended that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security should conduct a management review of the Department of Safety and Security. The panel had also noted that the Department would require additional human and financial resources, but that their level and allocation should be determined following the management review.

3. With the completion of the two reviews in 2009, a significant number of measures had been identified for strengthening security, and related resource proposals had been incorporated in the two reports that were before the Committee for consideration in the context of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2010-2011 and the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

4. The addendum (A/64/6 (Sect. 34)/Add.1) included the resource requirements related solely to the proposals for the Department of Safety and Security, while the Secretary-General's report on a strengthened and unified security management system (A/64/532) updated the revised estimates of resource requirements that had been set out in his previous report on the same subject (A/63/605) and contained proposals for strengthening security for other departments and entities not covered under section 34.

5. The resource requirements for the Department of Safety and Security were included in two budgets: the regular budget for Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters and the budget that was jointly financed by participating agencies, funds and programmes in Vienna and the field.

6. The overall resources required for the biennium 2010-2011 under section 34, including the United Nations share in the jointly financed safety and security costs, amounted to $247,113,900 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $39,188,000 against the revised appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. That growth was the result of the additional resources recommended under the management review and the delayed impact of the additional seven posts approved in the biennium 2008-2009 for crisis management.

7. The overall resources required for the gross jointly financed budget for the biennium 2010-2011 amounted to $260,959,500 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $37,513,000 that encompassed increases in the gross budget for the Security and Safety Service in Vienna ($1,743,500) and in the field operation and related requirements of the Department both at Headquarters and in the field ($35,769,500). The delayed impact of the proposed new posts for the biennium 2012-2013 for the gross jointly financed budget was estimated at $20,247,800.

8. In total, 395 new posts were proposed for strengthening security at Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and in the field, with 243 posts under the regular budget and 152 posts under the jointly financed budget. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 also made provision for an increase in non-post requirements to support those new posts.

9. The proposals contained in the report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/64/532) gave rise to estimated resource requirements of $43,633,000 under the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011, $4,170,200 under the jointly financed security budget for the four Vienna-based international organizations and $1,878,700 under the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The delayed impact of the proposals for the biennium 2012-2013 was estimated at $2,341,800. In total, 36 new posts were

proposed: 28 under the regular budget, 2 under the jointly financed security budget for Vienna and 6 under the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

10. **Mr. Starr** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that, based on the recommendation of the independent panel appointed by the Secretary-General, the Department of Safety and Security had undertaken a comprehensive management review. It had concluded that it should develop a strategic vision that would allow it to address new threat paradigms while enabling the delivery of essential United Nations programmes.

11. The proposals contained in the addendum to the proposed programme budget (A/64/6 (Sect. 34)/Add.1), which took into account the current economic climate and budgetary constraints, would enable the Department to better respond to the challenges currently facing the Organization and fulfil its mandate responsibly and effectively. In formulating its proposal, the Department had sought to ensure that most of the additional resources would be designated for the field and that there would be only a modest increase in the number of staff at Headquarters.

12. Recalling that the Department's budget had remained relatively unchanged since its establishment in 2005, he said that the proposed budget would help address problems in vital areas such as threat and risk analysis and information management. It also called for the deployment of adequate numbers of security personnel in the field, additional staffing for the uniformed and close protection services and measures to enhance security training and human resources management.

13. The additional resource requirements proposed for the provision of security to staff and facilities in high-threat locations, which were outlined in a letter dated 9 December 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and subsequently transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee (A/C.5/64/10), were contingent on approval of the Department's proposed budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

14. Although he understood Member States' concerns regarding those additional resource requirements, the Department needed all of the resources it had requested in order to be able to provide security to staff and premises in high-risk locations. Without a properly resourced budget, the Department would be unable to support or staff key projects and plan a rational response to the unprecedented security challenges facing the United Nations. Any delay in strengthening security measures increased the possibility that a staff member might be killed or injured.

15. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had recently reiterated the need for Member States to acknowledge the increased funding requirements in support of programme delivery and expressed support for the Department's vision for a strengthened security management system, including the additional resource requirements which the Committee was being asked to endorse.

16. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/64/7/Add.15 and Corr.1 and A/64/7/Add.16), said that, with regard to section 34 of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee noted that the overall regular budget resources required, including the United Nations share of the jointly financed safety and security costs, amounted to $247,113,900 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $39,188,000 over the appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009. The Committee further noted that the full budget request for that section amounted to $449,566,500 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $67,227,800 over the appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009.

17. Subject to the recommendations set out in its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the Secretary-General's proposals. The Advisory Committee estimated that its recommendations would result in net reductions of $11,600,000 under the regular budget and $11,600,000 under the gross budget for jointly financed activities.

18. The Advisory Committee's report also contained comments and observations on issues arising from the management review of the Department of Safety and Security and on the review's relationship to the budget proposals submitted by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee welcomed the management review's focus on the role of the Department as a facilitator of the Organization's work on the ground and on the selective reinforcement of key enabling functions, as well as the emphasis on the development

of the Department as a central, lean, transparent and efficient organization. It further noted that the management review advocated an evolutionary approach to the Department's development and thus did not propose any substantial changes to its established organizational structure.

19. Although the management review had identified weaknesses in the Department and put forward a number of suggestions designed to remedy them, those proposals and the related resource requirements were works in progress, requiring further thought and development. In addition, a number of important issues that had been raised by the independent panel, including managerial responsibility for and organizational leadership of safety and security, the public image of the United Nations and its implications for security, and the proposed replacement of the current security phase system, had not been addressed in the review. The Advisory Committee had therefore adopted a prudent approach in formulating its recommendations on section 34. Moreover, efforts to strengthen the Department should focus not only on expanding capacity but also on enhancing the quality of existing capacity. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit a detailed update on progress made in strengthening the Department as part of the first performance report.

20. With regard to the proposed staffing levels for 2010-2011, the Secretary-General proposed the creation of 243 new posts under the regular budget, the reclassification of one post from the D-2 to the Assistant Secretary-General level and the conversion of 113 temporary posts to established posts. Under the gross budget for jointly financed activities, a total of 152 new posts were sought, as well as two upward reclassifications, one redeployment and the conversion of 25 temporary posts to established posts.

21. Broadly speaking, the Advisory Committee advocated an incremental approach to the staffing of the Department and welcomed, in particular, the Secretary-General's focus on strengthening capacity in the field. The Committee's recommendations were based, inter alia, on its recognition of the importance of providing adequate security and safety services at headquarters locations and at the regional commissions, as well as on its understanding that, since information was the single most important commodity needed to provide security for modern global field operations, there was a need both to strengthen threat and risk assessment capacity and to develop a comprehensive information management strategy. With regard to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, on a pilot basis, a regional technical support team in Nairobi, the Advisory Committee recommended that a limited number of positions should be funded through general temporary assistance pending a review of the project.

22. The Advisory Committee's report also contained comments and observations on other matters relating to the Department of Safety and Security and its operations, including the need to develop standardized guidelines for determining the security presence needed in a given location and to streamline existing structures for crisis management. With regard to the responsibility of host Governments, while the Advisory Committee acknowledged that not all host countries could provide the same level of security support to the Organization, it nevertheless believed that their role in that area should not be overlooked. The Department should therefore take steps to enhance cooperation and collaboration with national and/or local law enforcement agencies in all locations and report on progress achieved in the context of section 34 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

23. Given that the Secretary-General had expressed his intention, in his letter of 9 December 2009 (A/C.5/64/10), to use the Department's budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to meet critical safety and security needs in high-threat locations as they might arise, the Advisory Committee expected that information on the utilization of those resources would be submitted at the appropriate time.

24. Turning to the Advisory Committee's report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/64/7/Add.15), which concerned the revised estimates under various sections of the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 as well as the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, she said that the Advisory Committee noted that phase I of the standardized access control project (PACT I) had been fully implemented at all locations except the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; in the Tribunal's case, the project would be discontinued in view of the Tribunal's impending closure.

25. Additional requirements for 2010-2011 for phase II of the project (PACT II) amounted to $45,347,000, comprising $40,250,300 under the regular budget, $3,218,000 for the Vienna-based organizations, to be funded on a cost-sharing basis, and $1,878,700 for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. A total of 20 posts were proposed: 16 for information technology functions and 4 additional security officers for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In that connection, the Advisory Committee noted that resources for 38 additional security staff required to strengthen capacity as a result of the implementation of PACT I were proposed under section 34 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

26. The Advisory Committee was of the view that additional security enhancements should be prioritized and introduced in a phased manner, and therefore recommended that, during the upcoming biennium, PACT II should be implemented only at ECA, ESCWA and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The requirements for PACT II at the remaining duty stations should be reviewed during 2010-2011, taking into account the lessons learned and experience acquired during the initial implementation. In addition, since the Advisory Committee was not convinced that it was indispensable to provide real-time video connectivity between Headquarters and other major duty stations, the implementation of that functionality should also be reviewed during the upcoming biennium.

27. The Advisory Committee recommended that the summary of post and non-post requirements for 2010-2011 should be adjusted to take account of its recommendations and then provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the item. The Committee further recommended that any posts approved should be funded through general temporary assistance.

28. In its previous report on the subject (A/63/769), the Advisory Committee had expressed the view that the strengthening of security arrangements for the United Nations should be addressed in an integrated manner. It therefore considered that the further development of the access control system should be seen as an integral part of the safety and security policy framework of the United Nations. In future, resource requirements for access control should be addressed in the context of the strengthening of the security management system requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/263.

29. With regard to additional security requirements unrelated to the PACT projects, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the resources proposed to augment the capacity of the close protection team at the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, as well as the resources intended to provide for strengthened security at United Nations information centres. However, the Advisory Committee did not recommend approval of the resources requested for four additional international security officers at the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization until the necessary weapons authorizations were granted by the host country. At the International Court of Justice, the approval of one of the four posts proposed was recommended.

30. **Mr. Råsbrant** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the stabilization and association process countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that United Nations staff members were increasingly exposed to risk as a result of the unprecedented increase in the Organization's operations around the world. The United Nations must therefore take action to effectively protect its staff and premises.

31. Although his delegation regretted the delay in discussing the question of the safety and security of United Nations personnel, which had been on the Committee's agenda since the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, it nonetheless welcomed the Secretary-General's revised proposals in that regard and looked forward to discussing those proposals and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

32. **Ms. Pepin-Hallé** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, as Member States continued to ask the Organization to operate in volatile settings, it was their collective duty to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff members and associated personnel. While it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to ensure the safety of staff members, it was the obligation of

Member States to ensure that the necessary resources were made available.

33. The creation of the Department of Safety and Security had been an important first step in ensuring that a systematic, professional approach to staff safety and security was in place. However, providing adequate security required the Organization to increase internal coordination, gain a better understanding of the environments in which it operated and standardize capabilities throughout the United Nations system.

34. In its resolution 61/263, the General Assembly had emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations. Although the management review and the Secretary-General's report were important pieces of that framework, a number of other important pieces were still missing. The three delegations were concerned about the late submission of both the management review findings and the Secretary-General's report, as well as the piecemeal approach to the completion of the framework. However, they welcomed the promptness with which the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security had conducted the management review.

35. She welcomed the Secretary-General's proposed strategic vision for safety and security, which would enable the Department of Safety and Security to establish effective leadership within the United Nations system, particularly with regard to operational support of the Organization's security management system. The delegations agreed with the Advisory Committee that the work under way on PACT II should be continued, with priority given to implementation in the field. Strengthening threat and risk assessment as well as analytical capabilities were also vital to providing effective security for United Nations staff.

36. **Mr. Gubler** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said it was Member States' duty to minimize the risks to which United Nations staff were exposed and to increase their safety and security. Unfortunately, the Committee was not being given sufficient time to address the issue. The two delegations had hoped to discuss the links between the different proposals and to learn more about the effects that the proposed strengthening measures could have on the assignment of tasks, lines of responsibility and accountability, within both the Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations system.

37. However, owing to the lack of time and in view of the urgent need to strengthen safety and security, the two delegations would adopt a pragmatic approach and strive to reach a consensus on the question prior to the conclusion of the main part of the General Assembly's sixty-fourth session. Any further delay in addressing such an important question would be irresponsible and send the wrong message to United Nations staff members. Both delegations stood ready to endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as the basis for consensus.

38. **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America) said that his Government was committed to ensuring that United Nations staff members were given the protection they needed as they provided vital humanitarian assistance and coordinated the Organization's development initiatives.

39. Although his delegation welcomed the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to balance urgent security needs with new management priorities, it was concerned that the budget presented did not directly address questions related to managerial responsibility. He trusted that future reports would present a more comprehensive managerial assessment.

40. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the PACT projects, which called for a phased approach to their execution. That would allow the Organization to review the projects during their implementation and take the lessons learned into account. His delegation also agreed with the Advisory Committee that greater effort should have been made to prioritize the requirements of the PACT projects; the proposals related to the strengthening of the security management system were complex and their financial implications were substantial. The Department of Safety and Security should take advantage of technological developments to the greatest extent possible and also take such developments into account when making future requests for human resources.

41. His delegation also supported the ad hoc arrangement proposed by the Secretary-General under which $7,866,700 out of the budget for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) would be used to enhance security for United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, as well as the proposal to utilize the proposed budget of the Department of Safety and Security for the biennium 2010-2011 to

meet needs in other extremely high-threat locations. He looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's formal funding proposal at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

42. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that while primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rested with the host country, it was imperative for the Organization and host countries to work together in order to achieve that goal. The United Nations must also revamp its safety standards and train its safety personnel to mitigate risk. While the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to strengthen the Organization's security management system were welcome, frugal use must be made of the meagre resources available.

43. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for additional resources to provide security for United Nations personnel working in high-threat locations and agreed with the Advisory Committee's emphasis on the primary role of the General Assembly in defining the mandate and policies governing the activities of the Department of Safety and Security.

44. The timely submission of documents was vital to the Committee's consideration of all budget proposals, including those related to safety and security.

45. **Mr. Park** In-kook (Republic of Korea), recalling that United Nations staff members were increasingly targeted by horrific acts of violence, said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals, which reflected the recommendations of the independent panel and the outcome of the comprehensive management review undertaken by the Department of Safety and Security.

46. **Mr. Yamada** (Japan) said that, although the safety and security of United Nations staff members was paramount, the proposed budget for the Department of Safety and Security must be examined with the same prudence as the rest of the proposed programme budget. His delegation had expressed strong reservations about the budget that had originally been proposed by the Secretary-General (A/63/605) at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, outside the regular budget cycle.

47. Recalling that the Advisory Committee's report on section 34 pointed out a number of shortcomings in the proposed budget, his delegation wished to emphasize that the proposals concerning PACT II were particularly problematic. His delegation also regretted that the Committee had not been given sufficient time to study the proposed budget owing to the late submission of the relevant reports.

48. In view of the challenging circumstances under which it was being asked to address the proposed budget for the Department of Safety and Security, the Committee should base its discussions on the proposals set out in the Secretary-General's letter of 9 December 2009 (A/C.5/64/10). In that letter, the Secretary-General stated that he intended to use the Department's budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to meet critical needs in other extremely high-threat locations. His delegation supported that approach in principle and urged other delegations to do the same.

49. In the interest of budgetary discipline, the resources approved by the Committee for section 34 and PACT II should be kept below the level recommended by the Advisory Committee. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that any posts approved should be established on a temporary basis, to expire at the end of the biennium 2010-2011 unless specifically reauthorized by the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

50. The Secretary-General was called on to report annually to the General Assembly, beginning with its sixty-fifth session, on progress made in implementing the proposals aimed at strengthening the Department of Safety and Security.

51. **Mr. Starr** (Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security) said that he took personal responsibility for the late issuance of the Secretary-General's report. It had been necessary to complete the comprehensive management review and develop a strategic vision for the Department prior to the formulation of the proposed budget.

52. **Mr. Dahmane** (Algeria) said that his delegation supported the proposed programme budget for the Department of Safety and Security and looked forward to receiving further updates from the Secretariat regarding the comprehensive management review and the status of safety and security throughout the United Nations system at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Limited budgetary discretion (A/64/7/Add.18 and A/64/562)

53. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion (A/64/562), said that the report had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 60/283, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to report on the lessons learned from the experiment with limited budgetary discretion in the biennium 2006-2007 and 2008-2009. Specifically, the Secretary-General had been authorized to enter into commitments of up to $20 million in each biennium for post and non-post requirements for the purpose of meeting the evolving needs of the Organization in implementing its mandated programmes and activities.

54. After analysing the experience over the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, the Secretary-General had concluded that he should continue to be able to exercise limited budgetary discretion and proposed that the General Assembly should decide to continue it as an established procedure, with the three modifications described in paragraphs 17-20 of the report.

55. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/64/7/Add.18), said that the Secretary-General's report did not adequately respond to the request contained in General Assembly resolution 60/283, nor did it provide sufficient information to support his request that limited budgetary discretion should be continued as an established procedure.

56. Nonetheless, the Advisory Committee did not object to the continuation of the current arrangements for the exercise of limited discretionary authority by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2010-2011. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session that fully addressed all the requests made in resolution 60/283.

57. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) recalled that, during the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, the Secretary-General had exercised his limited budgetary discretion primarily to meet management requirements such as influenza pandemic preparedness, fire code compliance in the Secretariat Building and the enterprise resource planning system.

58. His delegation saw merit in continuing limited budgetary discretion as an established practice and hoped that it would be utilized in a manner that would have a positive impact on all sections of the budget. With respect to increasing the commitment level, his Government was of the view that the Secretariat should have the capacity to mobilize resources in order to address urgent, unforeseen needs. Although the Secretary-General had not fully utilized the authorized commitment during the experimental period, his delegation nonetheless supported the request for an increase in the commitment level, provided that a framework designed to ensure greater accountability and transparency was put into place.

59. The resources redeployed by the Secretary-General in exercise of his limited budgetary discretion must be drawn from areas of the budget that were not crucial to the Organization's work. Any redeployment of resources should be carefully assessed in order to ensure that it would not adversely affect mandated programmes and activities.

60. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) said that her delegation wished to voice its displeasure at the late submission of the Secretary-General's report, which showed that the Member States' repeated requests to the Secretariat to improve its working methods and submit reports on time had gone unheeded. The report itself was needlessly repetitive and the Secretariat was advised to express its ideas in a more concise and direct manner in the future.

61. The Secretary-General had been granted limited budgetary discretion on the assumption that the activities funded would be offset by savings identified and attained, including through the efficient use and assignment of resources, within the authorized appropriation level. Her delegation noted with concern that the Secretariat had achieved those savings by borrowing resources allocated to posts, which was worrying in view of the Organization's difficulties in filling the large number of vacancies.

62. In particular, the Secretary-General had used his discretion to borrow $1,308,100 from posts under section 17, Economic and social development in Africa; section 18, Economic and social development in Asia; section 20, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean; section 21,

Economic and social development in Western Asia; and section 28F, Administration, Vienna. Member States should pay close attention to the number of vacant posts under those sections of the programme budget, which concerned programmes for developing countries.

63. Her delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's assessment that only one of the four points on which the General Assembly had requested information, namely the utilization of the experiment to date, had been fully addressed in the report of the Secretary-General. The report did not address the implications of the experiment for human resources management policies and the Financial Regulations and Rules, its impact on programme delivery and the priorities of the Organization, or the criteria used by the Secretary-General to define the evolving needs of the Organization. Her delegation also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the current arrangements for the exercise of limited discretionary authority by the Secretary-General should be continued for the biennium 2010-2011.

64. However, her delegation had serious reservations about continuing the experiment along the lines on which it had been conducted in the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009. There was no need to increase the amount of commitment authority because the Secretary-General had not fully utilized the level authorized during the experimental period.

65. Other mechanisms existed to fund activities that had not been provided for in the programme budget, including those provided for in General Assembly resolutions 62/239 and 41/213; transfers between appropriations, in accordance with financial regulation 5.6 and financial rule 105.1; and commitments against appropriations for future financial periods, in accordance with financial regulation 5.7 and financial rule 105.2.

66. Any increase in the amount of discretionary authority granted to the Secretary-General must be accompanied by a thorough analysis of the accountability mechanisms. Her delegation would follow with interest the Committee's discussion of the matter.

67. **Mr. Rosales Díaz** (Nicaragua) said that, owing to the late submission of the Secretary-General's report, the Committee was being asked to take a decision that had significant financial implications without being given sufficient time for discussion.

68. The late submission was neither acceptable nor understandable because when the General Assembly had authorized the experiment the Secretariat had been well aware that it would have to report at the Assembly's current session. In addition, the Secretary-General had stressed the importance of limited budgetary discretion in numerous discussions outside the context of the Committee. The Secretariat's tardiness therefore demonstrated its lack of consideration for the General Assembly.

69. In view of the Secretariat's disregard of the General Assembly's prerogatives, it was impossible to discuss the limited budgetary discretion without also discussing the need for the Secretariat to be more accountable to the Assembly.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.36: Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/64/9)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/64/L.27: Institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (A/64/7/Add.17; A/C.5/64/11)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.64: Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/C.5/64/12)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.5/64/13)

70. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller) introduced four statements of programme budget implications submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

71. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.36 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/64/9) requested the Secretary-General to continue to support human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process in Myanmar, to offer technical assistance in that regard, and to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner.

72. The estimated costs of continuing the Secretary-General's good offices to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Adviser amounted to $1,159,100 net. Technical assistance to the Government of Myanmar, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. No additional resources were being requested for the activities of the Special Rapporteur.

73. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.36, additional requirements amounting to $1,281,600 gross ($1,159,100 net) would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 for the continuation of the Secretary-General's good offices relating to the situation in Myanmar.

74. Approval for those resource requirements was being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/64/349/Add.1).

75. Draft resolution A/64/L.27 on institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (A/C.5/64/11) requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources to finalize the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force without delay in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

76. For the biennium 2010-2011, a total of six posts were required to carry out the core secretariat functions of the Task Force office: Director of the Office (D-2), Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5), Political Affairs Officer (P-4), Political Affairs Officer (P-3), Programme Assistant (GS (OL)) and Administrative Assistant (GS (OL)). The cost of establishing the six posts would amount to $1,088,400.

77. In addition to the post resources, the office would require resources for official travel, programme consultation, coordination and outreach at the regional level ($244,600), publications for outreach and information-sharing (such as regular updates of the Task Force website) ($23,600) and hospitality ($1,000); it would also require $421,300 for operational costs such as office accommodation, commercial communications, supplies, furniture and equipment related to the establishment of the six posts.

78. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/64/L.27, additional requirements amounting to $1,949,900 gross ($1,778,700 net), after recosting, would be required under section 3, Political affairs, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. That amount would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

79. Draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.64 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (A/C.5/64/12) requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with the resources necessary to enable it to promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the new mechanism for the review of implementation of the Convention was adequately funded.

80. Out of the overall requirement of 14 posts, 5 would be accommodated from the existing capacity of the Corruption and Economic Crime Section. The conference servicing requirements of the Implementation Review Group would be met through the provision already included under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. Operational requirements such as individual country review, travel and daily subsistence allowance for representatives of least developed countries, training and general operational expenses would be funded from voluntary contributions.

81. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.64, additional resources amounting to $1,689,300 gross ($1,460,000 net), after recosting, would be required under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, and section 28F, Administration, Vienna, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. That

amount would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

82. In accordance with draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59 on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.5/64/13), the General Assembly would decide to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil, and would decide that the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee should be held in 2010 for three days, the second meeting in 2011 for two days, and the third and final meeting in 2012 for three days.

83. The requirements related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in Brazil in 2012, would be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while the Government of Brazil would defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243.

84. Additional requirements of $976,500 would arise in relation to conference services and other conference support services for the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The Secretariat had sought to identify areas from which resources could be redeployed to meet the additional requirements. It was considered that a total amount of $460,400 could be absorbed.

85. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59, additional resources amounting to $516,100 would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. That would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.

86. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related four reports of the Advisory Committee covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010.

87. Regarding the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.36, concerning the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.36, additional requirements amounting to $1,281,600 gross ($1,159,100 net) had been included in the Secretary-General's report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/64/349/Add.1) and would be charged under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

88. Concerning the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/64/L.27, the Advisory Committee was of the view that the resources requested for hospitality should be accommodated within the overall level of resources provided in the proposed programme budget for the Department of Political Affairs. It was also of the view that the Task Force should exercise a high degree of prudence in the use of resources related to official travel.

89. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/64/L.27, an additional appropriation of $1,949,900 gross ($1,778,700 net) would be required under section 3 and section 28D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. That would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.

90. With respect to the resources requested for posts under draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.64, the Advisory Committee noted that, while the Secretary-General estimated that 14 posts would be required to perform the tasks outlined in the draft resolution, approximately 30 per cent of those tasks could be performed by the current staff of the Corruption and Economic Crime Section. A total of nine additional posts would be required to implement the review mechanism, at a cost, inclusive of related general operating expenses, of $1,689,300. The Secretary-General had indicated that there were no other resources provided under the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 that could be made available for that activity.

91. Upon request, the Advisory Committee had been provided with a description of the functions of the proposed new posts, as well as an organizational chart illustrating their location and the resulting modifications to the structure of the Division of Treaty

Affairs at UNODC. That information would be provided to the General Assembly when it considered that item.

92. The Advisory Committee further noted that $789,000 of the total estimated requirements of $1,248,000 for one annual session of the Implementation Review Group related to translation and interpretation services. Provision had already been made for that amount under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

93. Since the remainder of the resources would, for the time being, be met through voluntary funding, the Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/64/12), the overall impact of the proposals would amount to additional requirements of $1,689,300 gross ($1,460,000 net), after recosting.

94. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.64, additional resources amounting to $1,689,300 gross ($1,460,000 net), after recosting, would be required under section 16 and section 28F of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. That would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.

95. With respect to draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59, the Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/64/13), the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, both to be held in Brazil in 2012, would be included in the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013 as soon as dates and modalities were determined; the related resource requirements would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. It also noted that the Government of Brazil would reimburse to the United Nations the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved as a result of the change of venue. The Committee further noted that it was considered that the requirements for servicing regional preparatory meetings would be met from within existing resources under provisions foreseen for the regional commissions, as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

96. However, conference services and other conference support services would be required in connection with the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee, as those had not been planned for in the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2010 and 2011, nor had provision been made for them in the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011. As stated by the Secretary-General, the related additional requirements under section 2 would amount to $976,500.

97. The Secretary-General had indicated that an amount of $460,400, relating to requirements for meeting services and other related conference support services and requirements for processing pre-session and post-session documents, could be absorbed as proposed in his statement (A/C.5/64/13).

98. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59, an additional appropriation of $516,100 would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, those provisions would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

99. **Mr. Dahmane** (Algeria) said that his Government attached the highest importance to combating terrorism, as demonstrated by his delegation's active role in the negotiations that had led to the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While his delegation welcomed the role of that strategy in combating terrorism worldwide, its effectiveness also required the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the provision of all necessary financial and other resources to enable the Task Force to fulfil its mandate. His delegation would support the provision of all such resources intended for that purpose.

Agenda item 135: Pattern of conferences (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.10: Pattern of conferences

100. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.10 was adopted.*

Agenda item 139: United Nations common system (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.12)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.12: United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2009

101. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.12 as submitted to the Committee. However, he wished to place on record his delegation's comments with regard to section B, paragraph 1 (3), of the draft resolution, in which the General Assembly requested the International Civil Service Commission to review the application of the termination indemnity. As the General Assembly had already approved a termination indemnity schedule, any request for a review of that schedule was inadmissible in the view of his delegation.

102. However, a number of delegations, including his own, and most particularly that of the United States, had expressed concerns about the application of the termination indemnity schedule. It was therefore his understanding that the agreed text in that paragraph would be adopted only following a statement of clarification by the Chairman. Unfortunately, agreement had not been reached on the language for such a statement. His delegation wished to make its own statement of clarification.

103. In that connection, it wished to emphasize that the General Assembly was not requesting a review of the very concept of the termination indemnity as a whole. The delegations with concerns about the issue simply wished the wording of the resolution to reflect their concern about possible abuses of the termination indemnity by staff with 10 or more years of service.

104. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.12 was adopted.*

Agenda item 142: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.11)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.11: Administration of justice at the United Nations

105. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.11 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.